

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1861.

"No Step Backwards."

The following Electoral Ticket has been commended to our attention by gentlemen who assure us that while it is not a party ticket in any political sense, being equally divided between the members of the former political parties, it is yet made up, without exception, of gentlemen who are for a full and thorough prosecution of the war, and opposed to a reconstruction or reunion with the North under any pretext, under any circumstances, or at any time. Every man on the ticket whom we know personally, and we know nearly all, takes this ground, and this being our own ground, we will give this ticket our support, feeling that it alone goes into the field as the distinctive exponent of this decided position, the only position for the South at this time. As for the men to be voted for—the real candidates, they will no doubt be Davis and Stephens, but the moral effect of endorsing, as the medium of this voting, men who are willing to take positions like Joseph E. Brown, of Georgia, will be as great as was the triumph of that noble patriot and fearless magistrate. We do not say that there are not plenty of men in the State as good as those on this ticket, but it alone appears as the representative of the motto "No step backwards!"

STATE AT LARGE.

W. B. Bodman, of Beaufort,
Haywood W. Guion, of Lincoln.
DISTRICTS.
1. John P. Rod, of New Bern,
2. H. F. Holt, of Lenoir,
3. L. W. Humphrey, of Onslow,
4. Jesse G. Shepherd, of Cumberland,
5. Weldon N. Edwards, of Warren,
6. H. W. Jones, of Robeson,
7. A. G. Foster, of Randolph,
8. J. M. Long, of Cabarrus,
9. Anderson Mitchell, of Iredell,
10. A. W. Woodfin, of Buncombe.

WE ARE REQUESTED to state that the "Coast Guard Cavalry," a company raised for the protection of the coast, in accordance with the provisions of the recent act of the Confederate Congress, will be mustered into service, at Scott's Hill, New Hanover County, twelve miles from Wilmington, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on Saturday, Oct. 18th.

The company, at present, numbers already about 75 men, under the command of Captain A. F. Newkirk. Their term of service is twelve months, and if they get a chance, they will do good service.

"The Situation."

For the first and probably the last time, we use a caption which many of our more pretentious contemporaries have been content to keep standing, in imitation of that veracious sheet, the New York Herald.

What is the "situation"? It may, in the first instance, be premised that field operations will soon close in Western Virginia, if they have not already closed, the extreme cold of that mountainous region, the extreme badness of the roads at all times, aggravated in winter by alternate frosts and rains, the inadequate means of transportation, and the long lines of communication to be held by either army, as a basis of active operation, render a winter campaign a dangerous experiment, even were it practicable.

When we come to cast up the accounts and strike a balance of the results of the campaign of 1861, in Western Virginia, we must confess that the exhibit is not a cheering one. Upon the whole, we fear that the balance so ascertained will be found on the wrong side of the sheet. The Federal "situation" in that section is better than ours. They will go into winter quarters in better strategic positions, with the command of the most important points and in possession of large portions of the most desirable territory of Western Virginia, including two points which were vital objects of the military efforts of both parties, to wit: The immensely valuable Salt Springs of Kanawha county, near Charleston on the Kanawha river, which it would have been of the very greatest advantage to the Confederacy to have secured and controlled; besides, Charleston on the head of steamboat navigation on the Great Kanawha is a great commercial and social centre for that part of the State, and the River being navigable at all seasons (unless interrupted by frost) from the Ohio affords an easy channel by which the enemy from Ohio, Pennsylvania and the North-West may penetrate the Central West of Virginia. The other point, forming the second important object of the campaign, was the possession and control of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. and N. Western Virginia Road, the latter a branch of the former, and both in Virginia soil from the Maryland line to the terminus of the first at Wheeling and the last at Parkersburg. These Roads enable the North and North-West to pour into Western Virginia and Maryland at their pleasure. Unfortunately, this object of the campaign, like that on the Kanawha, has not been attained; the possession of these roads has not been secured by our side. The Kanawha with its salt and its navigation is held by Lincoln, as is also the important avenue of the two great railroads referred to. Without almost a miracle, things cannot be materially changed this year.

In Missouri and Kentucky, the scene changes too rapidly for the keenest eye and the quickest brain to dauntly retrace the situation of things there with anything like accuracy. The reports that reach us from the West, present a picture like unto the image of a man who, while sitting for his photograph, should keep swinging his head from one side to the other, alternating the amusement by bobbing it up and down, thereby producing a suspicion of sundry features, mixed up like giblets in a hash, the mouth rising up to bite off the nose, and the ear moving round to listen to the quarrel, while the eyes would probably be dancing a jig on the top of the head or merged into one over the nose, after the ancient Sicilian fashion, as practised by Polyphemus, the Cyclops.

However, one thing is nearly certain, namely, that as the season advances and military operations on our Northern front become impracticable and the winter opens up the extreme South by removing from Northern minds the dread inspired by its climate, we may expect to find the main efforts of the enemy turned against the valley of the lower Mississippi and the sea-coast of the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States. This was to have been apprehended from the first. In truth we must suppose that it was apprehended by all who looked to the matter with any care and consideration. It was no doubt General Scott's plan. The immense number of armed vessels and transports fitting up at every shipyard in the North, shows the extent to which it is contemplated to carry on these movements against the Southern coast. The announcement that Kentucky is to be made the seat of the war, is with the view of moving down upon Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana,—of penetrating, as the Lincoln organ says, into the very heart of the cotton region. There will be the main effort made. If that effort fails, the back of the invasion is broken. If we maintain our ground this winter the war may exist, but it will not rage. It may languish on for a few months and then tacitly drop off. It has been said to the people of the North that they need not be uneasy—that when winter comes, the Southern Confederacy can be pierced in its most vital part, and its energies completely paralysed—an attack on its weakest and most section—the Southern and South-Western Cotton States. This attack failing—this assurance to the Northern people being unreconciled, dissatisfaction will assume double force, and Seward and Lincoln be as great failures at the North as at the South. These views we expressed in our issue of the

12th day of last July, and we see no reason to change them. Not only has the North been buoyed up with the idea of great successes in the South and South-West, after the gathering of the cotton crop and the coming on of frost, but the same flattering assurances have been made to the European powers to keep them quiet under the operation of the blockade. The next five or six months will be the really critical period of the war. We need not, therefore, be surprised or dismayed by any extraordinary display of energy or activity made by the enemy. With them it is now or never—this winter or not at all. If they feel this as a stimulant to vigor in aggression, how much more will the brave men of the lower Mississippi feel it as inspiration to patriotic resistance.

To keep up a force on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts during the winter they must have possession of some harbor or harbors south of Cape Hatteras, say Beaufort harbor in North Carolina, or Port Royal harbor in South Carolina, and either Brunswick, Georgia, or Fernandina, Florida. Their only chance on the Gulf is Key West, but in certain states of the wind neither that nor the Tortugas is safe, and the last named is deficient in water. If they try to get into Pensacola or Mobile the effort will be costly. Without a harbor of refuge in nearly three thousand miles of dangerous coast, a winter blockade could hardly be kept up.

Hatteras was, perhaps, after all, a God-send to North Carolina. It opened all eyes. The experience it gave, and the lesson it taught, were pretty hard, but they were salutary.

The Potomac being closed, is such a blow at Lincoln, in its capital, that we must think McClellan will be forced to make an effort for the capture of our batteries, and this fort must, according to appearances, draw on a general engagement. Such is said to be the state of things existing, or believed to exist, along the line of the Potomac. We feel assured, that sooner or later, McClellan will attempt to retrieve northern military prestige on the field where it was so shamefully lost last summer. The great battle will be on the same line. We don't think he can delay this until next season. I may be that the reports of an intended early advance by McClellan are so. The attack by their ships, and their repulse by our batteries, is certainly so.

Looking at the situation of things generally, it is fully as good as could be expected. Were it ten times worse, it would not be worse than might have been taken into the calculation, without producing any feeling of despair.

"Sickness in Camp."

We are informed that there are a large number of sick soldiers in the camp of the 28th regiment, now stationed here. The great majority of the sick are affected with measles, whooping cough and mumps, especially measles and mumps.

The chances of damp and cold, incident to tent life, are very unfavorable in the above diseases, and for the comfort and speedy restoration of the invalids to health, drier and more comfortable hospital quarters are also required; to the necessity for such quarters, we have been requested to call public attention. We believe that the accommodations at the marine hospital are wholly inadequate for the requirements of the new regiments, who may fairly be expected to go through a course of mumps and measles, and if in doing so, any of their members should suffer from a relapse, occasioned by wet or cold, they would, of course, be less able to resist the attacks of pneumonia, or other pulmonary affection of the winter and spring.

We have little doubt that quarters could be obtained for those whose cases most pressingly require a removal from camp. We are not prepared to point our exactly where, but might suggest that, all probability, there is, under present circumstances, a good deal of room at the Inlet without the support of a fleet of light draft vessels. Also, that the Federal troops at the Inlet ought to be increased.

If General McClellan be coming or be come to any point on our coast, it gives strength to the report that the sea-board of North Carolina is to be the object of a serious demonstration, since otherwise, a regular officer of Mansfield high military reputation would hardly be sent.

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